GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:149
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM
Mohale Shri Punnulal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural education system requires a comprehensive expansion and development initiative;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received by the Government so far in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive scheme on the basis of the said proposals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 149 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10/03/2008 REGARDING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

(a & b) : In India, agriculture including higher agricultural education is a State subject. Recognizing the importance of the subject over decades, India has developed a wide network of agricultural education system comprising 41 State Agricultural Universities, a Central Agricultural University and five Deemed Universities. Besides, four general central universities have Faculty of Agriculture. This network covers the entire country`s different agro-climatic zones and spans across all disciplines of Agriculture and allied sectors, including Animal Sciences and Fisheries. Starting with the first State Agricultural University at Pantnagar in the year 1960, States have taken need based expansion of agricultural education. In this endeavor, the Central Government through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has provided supplemental financial assistance for overall human resource development in the country.

(c) & (d) : The XI Five Year Plan proposals envisage support for agricultural education in the area of
(i) Niche area excellence,
(ii) Experiential learning and overall development of learning resources,
(iii) Modernization of farms,
(iv) Training and faculty development,
(v) E-learning tools and course-content development, digitization and library strengthening,
(vi) Fellowships/ scholarships,
(vii) Gender mainstreaming including girls` hostel and other amenities,
(viii) Providing support to old historical University/Colleges, and (ix) Sports and games facilities.